

August 1, 2011

## **Ziegler named President of WASHTO; Schmidt named Secretary/Treasurer**

North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Director Francis Ziegler was elected president of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) at their annual meeting held last week in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His term will run for one year until the 2012 meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ziegler previously served as vice president of the organization.

"I would like to thank Amadeo Saenz, Jr., Director of the Texas Department of Transportation, for his work as president of WASHTO over the last year," said Ziegler. "I am honored to be elected president of WASHTO and look forward to working on important transportation issues."

Ziegler has been the NDDOT Director since October 2006. He is a Zeeland, N.D. native and a graduate of North Dakota State University.

North Dakota will be well represented among WASHTO officers over the next year. Norlyn Schmidt, Transportation Planner in the Planning and Asset Management Division, was elected secretary/treasurer of WASHTO. Schmidt, also a North Dakota State University graduate, grew up on a farm near Robinson, N.D.

The purpose of WASHTO is to serve its member departments by:

- providing a forum for exchanging ideas, exploring and adapting techniques, promoting quality and best practices for implementation;
- contributing to national policies on transportation issues that are responsive to members' needs;
- promoting a closer relationship between its members;
- advocating legislation that supports efficient and effective transportation systems, economic competitiveness and the environmental integrity of member states;
- working with the United States Department of Transportation and other governmental agencies.

WASHTO membership includes Departments of Transportation from 18 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and Washington.